

PUBLIC NOTICE
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Draft Environmental Assessment
Dowans Creek Road Relocation Project
Jefferson County, WA

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide funds to Jefferson County for a road relocation project on the Olympic Peninsula in western Washington (Section 1, Township 27 North, Range 13 West, W.M.). A segment of Dowans Creek Road is proposed to be abandoned between milepost (MP) MP 1.32 and MP 1.51, and relocated approximately 400 feet farther south and upslope of the Bogachiel River.

A section of Dowans Creek Road, approximately 360 feet in length, was damaged by a landslide during a December 2007 storm. A geotechnical report concluded that the landslide was most likely caused by undercutting of the slope by the Bogachiel River, and the instability would continue. Thus, the Jefferson County Public Works Department determined that the damaged segment of Dowans Creek Road should be closed and a new road segment constructed to provide access to residents and others.

FEMA prepared a Draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and FEMA's implementing regulations. The EA evaluates project alternatives and compliance with applicable environmental laws and Executive Orders. The alternatives evaluated in the EA are the (1) No Action; and (2) Proposed Action (or Preferred Alternative). Other alternatives were considered but not carried forward in the analysis. Mitigation measures are included as part of the project proposal. In consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, a compensatory conservation strategy was developed for the marbled murrelet (a bird species listed under the Endangered Species Act) to identify suitable parcels for acquisition, management, and protection by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

Analysis of the environmental impacts associated with the project alternatives is available in the Draft EA. The Draft EA is available for viewing on the FEMA website at:

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region10.shtm>

And Jefferson County website: <http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us>

If no substantive issues are identified during the comment period, FEMA will finalize the EA, issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and fund the project. The Final EA and FONSI will be available for viewing at the FEMA website noted above. Unless substantive comments are received, FEMA will not publish another notice for this project. Please submit your written comments to FEMA Region X Environmental Officer, Mark Eberlein, no later than 5 p.m. on May 11, 2012. Comments can be:

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